Texan claims his father was 1 of 3 who killed Kennedy

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AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — An unemployed oil equipment salesman claims that his late father, a former Dallas police officer, was one of three men who assassinated President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Ricky White scheduled a meeting with reporters Monday in Dallas to offer evidence he said implicates his father, Roscoe White, in the assassination, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported Sunday.

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, fired the shots that killed Kennedy and wounded Texas Gov. John Connolly.

Mr. White, 29, said he "had no conception of ever, ever giving this story out," but decided to do so after the FBI began questioning him in May 1988 in relation to his claims.

Mr. White said he can prove that his father fired two of the three bullets that killed the president and that his father, not Mr. Oswald, also killed Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit less than an hour after the assassination.

Mr. White said Mr. Oswald was involved in the plot, but did not fire any shots. The two other shooters were referred to in his father's diary only by code names, Mr. White said.

Roscoe White died in a fire in 1971.

The evidence Mr. White reportedly will provide includes a rifle with telescopic sight that uses ammunition he said is similar to that used in Mr. Oswald's gun; records showing Mr. Oswald and Mr. White served together in the Marines; and three faded messages he believes were sent by U.S. intelligence officials ordering Mr. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas in November 1963.

Bobby Inman, the former deputy CIA director, viewed the messages and told the American-Statesman they were not genuine.

Mr. White, an unemployed equipment salesman in Midland, said that he and his mother read his father's diary, which detailed the assassination. His mother, Geneva White, is seriously ill and unable to be interviewed, family members told the newspaper.

The diary disappeared from his home after it was inspected by the FBI, Mr. White says.

Mr. White said his mother worked briefly at Jack Ruby's Carousel Club in Dallas. Mr. Ruby fatally shot Mr. Oswald two days after Kennedy was assassinated.

Clues found among his father's effects and available government records show that Roscoe White and Mr. Oswald served together in the U.S. Marine Corps in the late 1950s, Ricky White said. He said his father claimed to have become acquainted with Mr. Oswald in Japan and the Philippines.

He said his father's possessions also

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included a photograph, taken by Marina Oswald of her husband, Lee Harvey Oswald, holding a rifle in the back yard of their Dallas home in 1963.

Mr. Oswald was discharged in 1959 and defected to the Soviet Union. He returned to the United States in 1962, settling first in Fort Worth before moving to Dallas.

The elder White was discharged in late 1962 and joined his wife and two sons in Paris, Texas. Ricky White says his family later moved to Dallas where his father sold insurance.

Dallas police records show that on Oct. 7, 1963, Roscoe White joined the department as a photographer and clerk, and that he became a patrol officer in 1964.

Mr. White says his father shot from behind a fence atop the grassy knoll that was to the right and front of Mr. Kennedy's limousine when he was shot. He says the other two gunmen were behind the limousine in the Texas School Book Depository, where Mr. Oswald also was, and in a second building.

As the incriminating evidence began to mount against his father, Ricky White asked the JFK Assassination Information Center in Dallas to verify or disprove his father's involvement, center director Larry Howard told The Associated Press. The information center is a private group that has pursued the idea of a conspiracy and coverup in Mr. Kennedy's death.

"He's actually very courageous to follow this thing through," Mr. Howard said Sunday. "The amount of documentation we have to back his story up is just incredible."